

REMARKS

Claims 38-50 are pending in this application. Claims 48-50 have been allowed. Claims 38-47 were rejected. Claims 38, 40 and 43-45 have been amended to overcome the rejection. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are supported by the application as originally filed including the specification, claims, abstract of the disclosure and the drawings, and that no new matter has been added.

*Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112:*

The Examiner rejected claims 38-47 on the grounds that the word "bactericide" had been misspelled. The forgoing amendments correct this misspelling.

*Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:*

The Examiner rejected claims 38 and 40 over Kurita, et al., but suggested language that would place these claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner also suggested that claims 43-45 be amended to follow this format. The forgoing amendments adopt the language suggested by the Examiner.

*Conclusion:*

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application stands in condition for allowance. The

Examiner's further consideration and favorable action are respectfully requests.

In addition, it is respectfully noted that this application was originally filed on October 30, 2001. It has now been pending for over four (4) years. This extended delay has impeded applicants efforts to commercially develop the subject matter set forth in this patent application. They, therefore, respectfully request that this application be considered as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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